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Title: Need to accord clearance to the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for implementing the Polovaram and Pulichintala irrigation projects which envisage linking the Godavari and Krishna Rivers.

SHRI K.S. RAO (ELURU): Linking of rivers in the country has become a dire need keeping in view of the huge losses to the crops and property because of floods and droughts. The losses run into thousands of crore rupees every year. The knowledge capacity and desire of the farmers and rural people who constitute 70 per cent of the population also has gone up substantially. Thereby, there is a need to increase the irrigatable land. Water in certain rivers like Godavari, Brahmaputra, Narmada and Mahanadi is going waste to the sea in large quantities. So, it is time to give top priority to allocate more funds in the State and Central budgets or to liberalise the terms to borrow funds by the State Governments from national and international sources. Similarly, sanctions and approvals from the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Environment are to be given on war footing while securing the interests of the tribes and displaced persons and raising forests in new areas compensating for the decrease in forest lands.

In this context, I request the Government of India to give clearances to the Polovaram and Pulichintala irrigation projects started by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to provide water to around 25 lakh acres of land by linking Godavari and Krishna rivers by which not only Andhra Pradesh, but also the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Chattisgarh will be benefited.